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NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

July 25, 2002

TN REGULATORY AUTHORITY
DOCKET ROOM

IN RE:

**NASHVILLE GAS COMPANY, a Division of
PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS COMPANY
WEATHER NORMALIZATION ADJ. (WNA) AUDIT)**

Docket No. 02-00795


**NOTICE OF FILING BY ENERGY AND WATER DIVISION OF THE TENNESSEE
REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. §§65-4-104, 65-4-111 and 65-3-108, the Energy and Water Division of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Energy and Water Division") hereby gives notice of its filing of the Nashville Gas Company WNA Audit Report in this docket and would respectfully state as follows:

1. The present docket was opened by the Authority to hear matters arising out of the audit of Nashville Gas Company (the "Company").
2. The Company's WNA filings were received on November 1, 2001, through March 31, 2002, and the Staff completed its audit of same on July 23, 2002.
3. On July 23, 2002, the Energy and Water Division notified the Company that no findings resulted from said audit.
4. The final WNA audit report (the "Report") is attached hereto as Exhibit A and is fully incorporated herein by this reference.

5. The Energy and Water Division hereby files its Report with the Tennessee Regulatory Authority for deposit as a public record and approval of the same.

Respectfully Submitted:

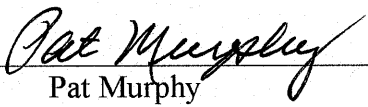

Pat Murphy
Energy and Water Division of the
Tennessee Regulatory Authority

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 25th day of July 2002, a true and exact copy of the foregoing has been either hand-delivered or delivered via U.S. Mail, postage pre-paid, to the following persons:

Sara Kyle
Chairman
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243

Bill R. Morris
Director-Rates
Piedmont Natural Gas Company
P.O. Box 33068
Charlotte, North Carolina 28233



Pat Murphy

COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORT

OF

NASHVILLE GAS COMPANY

WEATHER NORMALIZATION ADJUSTMENT (WNA) RIDER

DOCKET NO. 02-00795

PREPARED BY

TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

ENERGY AND WATER DIVISION

JULY 2002

EXHIBIT A

**COMPLIANCE AUDIT
NASHVILLE GAS COMPANY
WEATHER NORMALIZATION ADJUSTMENT (WNA) RIDER
Docket No. 02-00795**

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COMPLIANCE AUDIT
NASHVILLE GAS COMPANY
WEATHER NORMALIZATION ADJUSTMENT (WNA) RIDER

I. INTRODUCTION

The subject of this compliance audit is the Weather Normalization Adjustment (WNA) Rider of Nashville Gas Company (hereafter "Nashville Gas" or the "Company"), a division of Piedmont Natural Gas Company. The objective of this audit is to determine if the WNA adjustments were calculated correctly and applied to customers' bills appropriately between November 1, 2001 and March 31, 2002. As a result of the WNA Rider, the Company surcharged \$2,241,280 and \$1,324,668 from the residential and commercial customers respectively during the period. The impact of WNA revenues on the Company's total revenues is detailed in Section V.

The Staff's audit results showed no findings for the audit period under review. Staff commends the Company for its good work and concludes that the Company is correctly implementing the mechanics of the WNA Rider as specified by the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("TRA" or the "Authority") and included in the Company's tariff. (See Attachment 1)

II. SCOPE OF AUDIT

In meeting the objective of the audit, the Staff compared the following on a daily basis: 1) the Company's actual heating degree days to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) actual heating degree days; 2) the Company's normal heating degree days to the normal heating degree days calculated in the last rate case; and 3) the Company's calculation of the WNA factor to Staff's calculation. The Staff also audited a sample of customers' bills during the WNA period to verify that the WNA factor had been correctly applied to the bills.

Pat Murphy and Butch Phillips of the Energy and Water Division conducted this audit.

III. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON NASHVILLE GAS COMPANY

Nashville Gas Company, with headquarters at 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee, is an operating division of Piedmont Natural Gas Company, which has its headquarters at 1915 Rexford Road, Charlotte, North Carolina. NGC is a gas distributor that provides service to several communities in the Middle Tennessee area. The natural gas used to serve these areas is purchased from producers and marketers and transported to Nashville's city gate through the interstate transmission facilities of Tennessee Gas Pipeline (TGP), Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation (CGTC), and Texas Eastern Gas Pipeline (TETCO).

IV. BACKGROUND ON WEATHER NORMALIZATION ADJUSTMENT (WNA) RIDER

In its September 26, 1991 Order in Docket 91-01712, the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (hereafter "TRA" or the "Authority"), formerly the Tennessee Public Service Commission, approved a three year experimental Weather Normalization Adjustment (WNA) Rider to be applied to residential and commercial customers' bills during the months of October through May of each year (See Attachment 1). In its June 21, 1994 order, the TRA adopted the WNA Rider as a permanent rule, to be applied November through March of each year for Nashville Gas Company.

In setting rates, the Tennessee Regulatory Authority uses a normalized level of revenues and expenses for a test year, which is designed to be the most reasonable estimate of the Company's operations during the time the rates are to be in effect. Use of normalized operating levels eliminates unusual fluctuations that may occur during the test period, which causes rates to be set too high or too low.

Specifically, one part of normalizing revenues consists of either increasing or decreasing the test year weather related sales volumes to reflect the difference between the normal and actual heating degree days. (A heating degree day is calculated as the difference in the average daily temperature and 65 degrees Fahrenheit.) This average daily temperature constitutes normal weather and is determined based on the previous thirty years weather data.

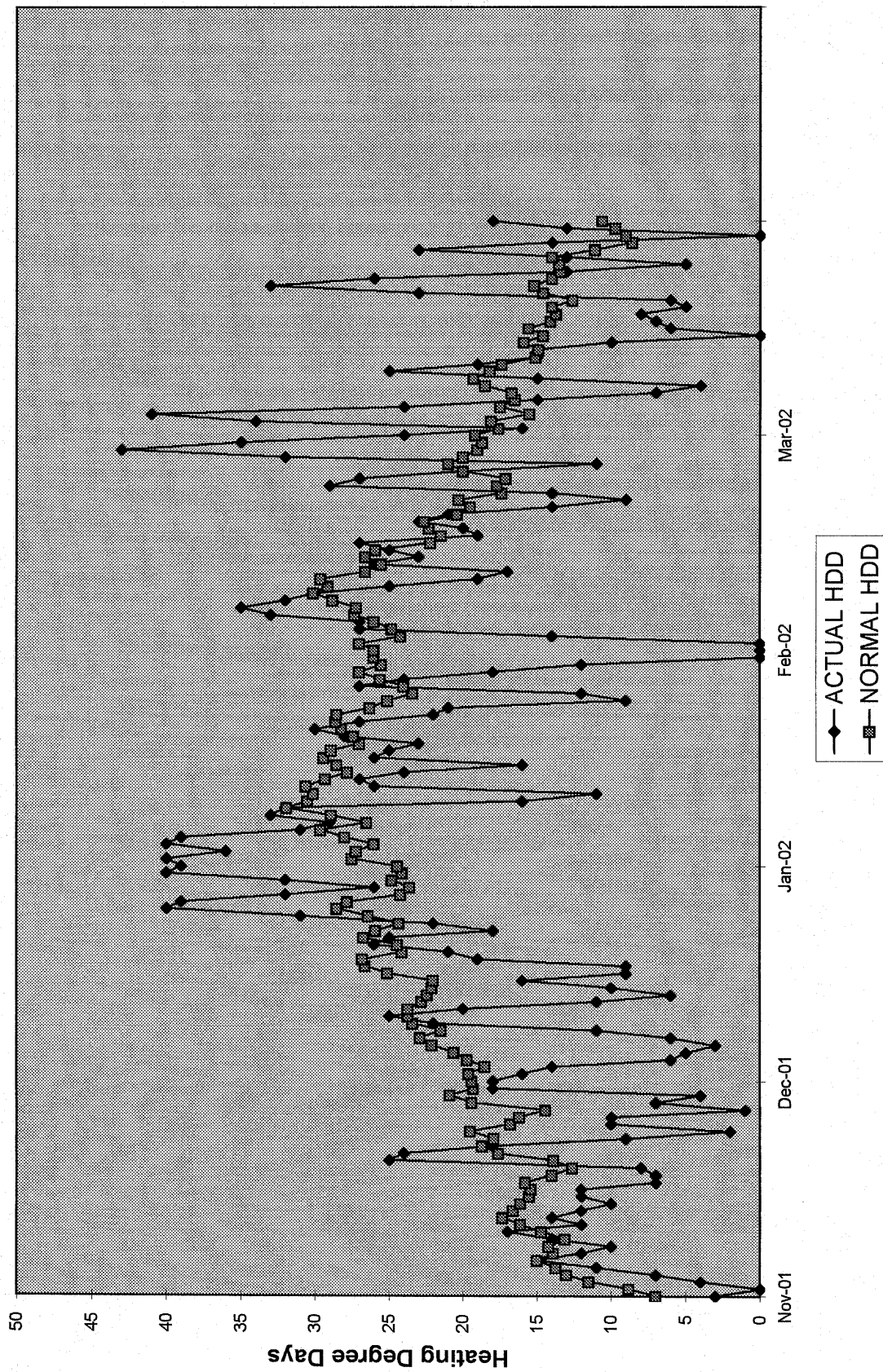
However, normal weather rarely occurs. This has two impacts:

- 1) The customers' bills fluctuate dramatically due to changes in weather from month to month; and
- 2) The gas companies earn more or less than their authorized rate of return. For example, if weather is colder than normal, then more gas than anticipated in the rate case will be sold. This results in higher customer bills and overearnings for the company. On the other hand, if weather is warmer than normal, less gas than anticipated in the rate case will be sold, the customers' bills will be lower and the company will underearn.

In recognition of this fact, the TRA approved a WNA mechanism to reduce the impact abnormal weather has on the customers' bills and on the gas utilities' operations. In periods of weather colder than normal, the customer receives a credit on his bill, while in periods of warmer than normal weather, the customer is billed a surcharge. Thus, customers' monthly bills should not fluctuate as dramatically and the gas company should have a more stable rate of return.

The following graph is a comparison of actual heating degree days to normal heating degree days for Nashville Gas during the 2001 - 2002 heating season.

Nashville Gas Company
Comparison of Actual to Normal Heating Degree Days
Nashville Weather Station



V. IMPACT OF WNA RIDER

The net impact of the WNA Rider during the November 1, 2001 through March 31, 2002 period was that residential and commercial customers were **surcharged** \$2,241,280 and \$1,324,668 respectively. This equates to increases in revenues from residential and commercial sales of 3.76% and 3.51% respectively. (See Table 1) This is an increase from the previous year when the residential and commercial customers were **refunded** \$2,329,915 and \$1,660,675 respectively (See Table 2).

Table 1

Impact of WNA Rider on Residential & Commercial Revenues November 1, 2001 - March 31, 2002

	<u>WNA Rider Revenues</u>	<u>Total Revenues</u>	<u>Percentage Impact of WNA Rider On Revenue</u>
Residential Sales	\$ 2,241,280	\$ 59,683,682	3.76%
Commercial Sales	<u>1,324,668</u>	<u>37,784,964</u>	3.51%
Total	<u>\$ 3,565,948</u>	<u>\$ 97,468,646</u>	3.66%

Table 2

Amount Surcharged (Refunded) 1999 - 2002

	<u>Residential</u>	<u>Commercial</u>	<u>Total Surcharge/Refund</u>
11/99-3/00	\$ 3,494,991	\$ 2,148,486	\$ 5,643,476
11/00-3/01	-2,329,915	-1,660,675	-3,990,589
11/01-3/02	<u>2,241,280</u>	<u>1,324,668</u>	<u>3,565,948</u>
Total	<u>\$ 3,406,356</u>	<u>\$ 1,812,479</u>	<u>\$ 5,218,835</u>

VI. WNA FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

As noted in Section I of this report, Staff had no findings for the audit of the period November 2001 through March 2002.

SERVICE SCHEDULE NO. 13

Weather Normalization Adjustment

(WNA) Rider

I. Provision for Adjustment

The base rates per therm (100,000 Btu) for gas service set forth in any rate schedules utilized by the Authority in determining normalized test period revenues shall be adjusted by an amount hereinafter described, which amount is referred to as the "Weather Normalization Adjustment".

The Weather Normalization Adjustment will be applicable for bills rendered on and after November 1 and continuing through the final billing cycle in March of each year.

II. Definitions

For the purposes of this Rider:

"Authority" means the Tennessee Regulatory Authority.

"Relevant Rate Order" means the final order of the Authority in the most recent litigated rate case of the Company fixing the rates of the Company or the most recent final order of the Authority specifically prescribing or fixing the factors and procedures to be used in the application of this Rider.

III. Computation of Weather Normalization Adjustment

The Weather Normalization Adjustment shall be computed to the nearest one-hundredth cent per therm by the following formula:

$$WNA_i = R_i \quad * \quad \frac{(HSF_i(NDD-ADD))}{(BL_i + (HSF_i \times ADD))}$$

Where:

$I =$ any particular rate schedule or billing classification within any particular rate schedule that contains more than one billing classification.

$WNA_i =$ Weather Normalization Adjustment Factor for the i^{th} rate schedule or classification expressed in cents per therm.

$R_i =$ weighted average base rate (base rate less any embedded gas cost) of temperature sensitive sales for the i^{th} schedule or classification utilized by the Authority in the Relevant Rate Order for the purpose of determining normalized test year revenues.

$HSF_i =$ heat sensitive factor for the i^{th} schedule or classification utilized by the Authority in the Relevant Rate Order for the purpose of determining normalized test year revenues.

$NDD =$ normal billing cycle heating degree days utilized by the Authority in the Relevant Rate Order for the purpose of determining normalized test year revenues.

$ADD =$ actual billing cycle heating degree days.

$BL_i =$ base load sales for the i^{th} schedule or classification utilized by the Authority in the Relevant Rate Order for the purpose of determining normalized test year revenues.

IV. Filing with Authority

The Company will file as directed by the Authority (a) a copy of each computation of the Weather Normalization Adjustment, (b) a schedule showing the effective date of each such Weather Normalization Adjustment, and a schedule showing the factors or values derived from the Relevant Rate Order used in calculating such Weather Normalization Adjustment.

NASHVILLE GAS COMPANY
665 Mainstream Drive
Nashville, Tennessee 37228
A Division of Piedmont Natural Gas Company
TRA Rate Schedule No. 13

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2nd Revised Addendum to TRA Service Schedule No. 13

**NASHVILLE GAS COMPANY
WNA Components**

	<u>Residential</u>	<u>Commercial</u>
"R" Value:	0.29884	0.34839
Heat Sensitivity Factor	0.18769	0.79321
Base Load:	13.018	126.066

ISSUED BY: Ware F. Schiefer
ISSUED ON: June 14, 2000

EFFECTIVE: July 1, 2000
DOCKET NO: 99-00994